



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/576,457	04/20/2006	Thomas Mecklenburg	LU 6139 (US)	2427
24114	7590	09/15/2009		
LyondellBasell Industries 3801 WEST CHESTER PIKE NEWTOWN SQUARE, PA 19073			EXAMINER HARLAN, ROBERT D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1796	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			09/15/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/576,457

Applicant(s)

MECKLENBURG ET AL.

Examiner

Robert D. Harlan

Art Unit

1796

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 June 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Remarks filed by Applicant on 06/12/2009 has been entered.
2. Claim 10 has been canceled.
3. New claims 13-15 have been added.

Response to Amendment/Arguments

4. Applicant's amendment and arguments filed on 06/12/2009 have been fully considered and they are found persuasive.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

7. Claims 1-9 and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshino et al., EP 0 663 418 B1 (hereinafter "Yoshino") in combination with Babler, U.S. Patent No. 5,931,997 (hereinafter "Babler") and Warych, U.S. Patent No. 5,056,426 (hereinafter "Warych"). Yoshino teaches a molding composition composed of an olefin polymer, processing the claimed melt flow, containing 40% by wt. of glass fibers (cut glass fibers) which are bonded to the olefin polymer by silane coupling agents and process for producing said molding composition and article containing said molding composition. See Yoshino, ¶¶ [0013-0015], [0023], [0028-0029]; Table 1-3. Yoshino differs from the current invention in that the current invention contains pthalocyanine pigment as a nucleating agent. Warych teaches a thermoplastic material comprising a

polypropylene with a copper-phthalocyanine nucleating agent.

See Warych, col. 3, line 47 through col. 4, line 32; claims 2 & 4. Babler teaches the use of copper-phthalocyanine as a coloring agent for use in coating compositions, plastics and fibers in an amount of 0.01 to 30 wt. %. See Babler col. 4, lines 51-60; col. 5, lines 57-60; col. 6, lines 5-12. The Applicant argues that the amount of phthalocyanine used by Babler can be as high as 30 wt.% in contrast to 1% in Applicant's claimed composition. The Examiner retorts Babler teaches an amount of copper phthalocyanine pigment in an preferred amount of 0.1 to 10%. See Babler, col. 4, lines 51-60.

8. In recently decided KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex, Inc., the Supreme Court unanimously stated "the combination of familiar elements according to known methods is likely to be obvious when it does no more than yield predictable result." In view of Warych and Babler, one having an ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to modify Yoshino by introducing a copper-phthalocyanine nucleating agent into the molding composition because Yoshino makes it clear that dyes and coloring agents are accessible. Furthermore, Babler describes copper-phthalocyanine as a coloring agent in thermoplastics such as polypropylene and Warych teaches that copper-phthalocyanine also serves as a

nucleating agent. Such modification would be obvious because one would expect that the use of copper-phthalocyanine as taught by Warych and Babler would be similarly useful and applicable to the molding composition taught in Yoshino.

9. In conclusion, the Applicant argues outside the scope of the claims when asserting that the claimed invention yields unexpected results with improved mechanical properties and resistance to hot water. The claims do not assert a mechanical property outside the teachings of Yoshino and resistance to hot water property is not part of the present claims. Contrary to the Applicant's view, the Examiner has decided to maintain the current obviousness rejection.

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

11. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will

expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert D. Harlan whose telephone number is (571) 272-1102. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu, 10 AM - 8 PM.

13. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David W. Wu can be reached on (571) 273-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

14. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Robert D. Harlan/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1796

rdh